



News Release

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Low radiation levels from Japan detected in Washington; no health risk

OLYMPIA — A Department of Health air monitor in Seattle has detected trace levels of radiation in connection with Japan's nuclear emergency. The minuscule amounts of radioactive iodine are millions of times lower than levels that would be a health concern. Despite these very small amounts, the state's overall background radiation levels haven't risen.

The positive results are consistent with findings reported by federal and Canadian partners, and by independent researchers. As expected, because of the distance from Japan and air mixing, radiation reaching our state is so diluted there is no health risk here, making protective action unnecessary.

People in Washington shouldn't take potassium iodide, also known as KI, because of what's happened in Japan. Only people who work in or around nuclear power plants during an emergency, or who live near such a plant and can't get away, should take KI.

The [agency Newsroom page](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Topics/japan2011.htm) (www.doh.wa.gov/Topics/japan2011.htm) is updated daily to provide the latest information about radiation monitoring in Washington, including [air monitoring data](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Topics/japan/monitor.htm) (www.doh.wa.gov/Topics/japan/monitor.htm).

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Visit the Washington Department of Health website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.